

***Center Aisle Caucus Co-Chairs To Participate In Event***

***Hosted By Danforth Center on Religion & Politics***

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

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(ST. LOUIS, MO) – As part of their ongoing efforts to promote civility and bipartisan cooperation, Representatives Jo Ann Emerson (MO-08, R) and Russ Carnahan (MO-03, D) will participate in a public forum to discuss the importance of civil discourse in a democratic society.

***‘A Vision for Civility,’*** a public forum hosted by the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics, will take place on Thursday, February 24 at 4:00p.m. CT in the Anheuser Busch Hall at Washington University in St. Louis. In a discussion moderated by Danforth Center Director Wayne Fields, PhD, participants will discuss the roles that citizens, elected leaders, and the media can play in promoting civil discourse.

**“There is nothing wrong with having a vigorous debate about important issues,”** said Russ Carnahan.

**“The problem lies when we allow the national debate to become so overheated that it’s difficult to sit down and talk through the challenges we face together.**

**We all have a responsibility to commit ourselves to the kind of open and honest communication that will allow us to actually solve problems, instead of just arguing with one another.”**

**“Civility is a central concern when we are debating the heated issues that face our nation.□ As in any other workplace, our ability to get things accomplished in Congress depends on our ability to represent our views and create an environment which fosters consensus.□ It’s a difficult task; all legislators have deeply-held convictions on the policy matters at stake in these debates and discussions.□ The nation is best served, however, by Americans who can listen as well as they speak in order to find some common ground.□ The Center Aisle Caucus is focused on that mission, and I look forward to talking more about our goals at Washington University in St. Louis next Thursday,”** said Rep. Emerson.

Emerson and Carnahan are Co-Chairs of the Center Aisle Caucus, a bipartisan group of Representatives who meet regularly in order to build relationships and discuss policy issues.

‘A Vision for Civility’ is co-sponsored by Washington University’s Assembly Series, the Gephardt Institute for Public Service, and the School of Law at Washington University in St. Louis. The forum is free and open to the public.

[Click here for more information.](#)

**“A Vision For Civility”: Carnahan, Emerson To Participate in Public Forum**

**Thursday, February 24, 4:00 p.m. CT**

Knight Center, Main Dining Room

Washington University in St. Louis

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